

Neersville Volunteer Fire Company

11762 Harpers Ferry Road
Purcellville, Virginia 20132

July 4, 2006

Mr. Doug Rambo, Chairman
Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Commission
16600 Courage Court
Leesburg, Virginia 20175

Mr. Rambo:

Our company received the general order dated April 25, 2006 regarding access to funding. The Neersville Volunteer Fire Company (Neersville) can not recognize or comply with this general order due to the past history Neersville has had with the commission. The commission for years has failed to meet the needs and follow through with all the requests for assistance that have been made by Neersville. In fact the commission has repeatedly taken actions to limit Neersville's ability to grow and provide enhanced services to our community and has even taken actions to further reduce services below acceptable levels.

The members of the commission have recently demonstrated that they are self serving, and are looking out only for the interest of the companies that they are members of not who they represent. Recently, a meeting was scheduled regarding a funding request Neersville made. The commission member that called the meeting invited several of the west end companies but, did not extend the invitation to Neersville even though they were going to talk about us. One of our members did attend the meeting but only after finding out through the back door. At that meeting the commission member accused Neersville of "Hi Jacking" potential money from his company. Indicating a conflict of interest.

When assistance in the form of career staffing and equipment for Neersville was brought to the commission in 2002, we were initially told that it could not be justified due to the low call volume. It took nearly three years to get the career staff in place due to interference by the commission. Neersville is requesting an ambulance and additional staffing. We fear that with the above referenced general order, further interference and unnecessary delays will occur at the hand of the commission. Members of Neersville have been told by persons connected with the commission and EMS council that an ambulance will never be approved and placed in service in the Neersville first due area. Why is this? Are the citizens of the western Hillsboro, Neersville and Loudoun Heights area not entitled this service? The citizens of this area pay the same tax rate as the citizens of Sterling, Ashburn and Leesburg. Why has the commission for years, refused to provide equal service to these citizens, as mandated in Article 1 of the commissions bylaws?

The commission has also stated that they will conduct an audit of Neersville's financial records. Neersville will welcome an audit of our financial matters. However, we require that the audit be conducted by an independent third party auditor that is not connected to the commission in anyway. We feel that allowing the commission to audit our records will prove to be nothing but a witch hunt.

Since Neersville has begun dealing directly with the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue (Fire-Rescue), operation of the company has turned around and the needs of our citizens are being met. The leadership of Fire-Rescue has recognized the need for services in the Neersville area and has worked directly with the Neersville volunteer membership to deliver these services. Fire-Rescue staff has worked to help Neersville obtain much needed equipment and staffing. All this has happened since 2004. Neersville asked the commission for help in 2001 and 2002 and the commission failed to provide any help. Why?

Neersville has established an excellent working relationship with Fire-Rescue. The Fire-Rescue staff has been responsive to our needs as a company and are continuing to work toward the needs of our citizens. The commission has proved to only be an obstruction in the growth of our company and our ability to provide quality services to our citizens. Therefore, the Neersville Volunteer Fire Company no longer recognizes the Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Commission as governing authority. The only governing authority Neersville will recognize is the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. Neersville will direct all future requests for assistance through the Department of Fire-Rescue. Neersville will continue to work with Fire-Rescue for our day to day operations as part of our commitment to provide the best quality fire and rescue services to our citizens.

Sincerely,

James Dumbrell, President
Neersville Volunteer Fire Company